

By BRAND WHITLOCK
Author of
"The Thirteenth District,"
"Her Infinite Variety,"
"The Happy Average,"
"The Turn of the Balance."

fortune and feel it, and he would let her do so for an instant before he put it away in the safety deposit vault to await opportunity for its investment.

She looked at it long and long, lying there in the lap of her black dress, but could not grasp the amount, though the old priest, leaning forward, with the enthusiasm of a school teacher, told her after so many years, in his hollow voice, said over and over:

"Look at it, my child! Feel it! It's fifty thousand dollars! And it's a good thing."

She patted it tenderly and affectionately, with a soft and reminiscent caress, that the priest knew that it was not for anything that package of money might hold for her in a material way, but then or afterward, but rather for what it gave back for a moment to her desolate and lonely and aching heart, and that, and thereafter silent. He had his doubts. He would feel better when the money had passed out of his hands and he would have to do with what he would ever do good in any one's hand, but he had a sense of humor, too, a grim sense in this instance, when he looked at her and at the money in its circle, even if he did dust his thin bands carefully with his spotless handskerchief when he laid the money down on the table, and he would not shed his tears that welled to their swelling, black lashes, and trembled there as she raised her eyes to him.

"You are a good girl," he said, "be was so, a good to me, always—and so kind! And see how thoughtful he was—to leave me all this! Oh, Jimmy, my poor Jimmy! He was so good, so forward like an old woman, and wept."

A STRUGGLE WITH A WIFE.

Strindberg's *Unhappy Marriage* Colored His Work.

How Strindberg's Unhappy Marriage Colored His Work.

The extremely unhappy married life of August Strindberg is commented upon by "Clara" Hamilton in the Bookman.

"August Strindberg," she writes, "Strindberg fell in love with the woman who was to exert a deeper influence upon his work than any other factor in his life. She was already married, but she obtained a divorce and married Strindberg. For a time their wedding life was happy, and the poet in the sunny period of his experience poured out a wealth of work of a variety of literary works conceived in the romantic mood. But a little later his marriage began to be disrupted by the discovery that the married life had become increasingly unbearable. The parties as the years proceeded. Held together by their children, they endured a time of torture until finally, after sixteen years of marriage, the hopeless struggle was ended by divorce.

"This tragic experience has colored the later work of Strindberg. He has been a more gloomy man, and he has now discovered in his war, and in his life, which is the origin and essence of life, which is also war—a year long, lifelong battle against an interrupting force. Hence he cannot be called a pessimist, but he is a two-sided passion, of which the inevitable reverse is hatred. Other poets have made the same discovery. Compare, for instance, Kipling's famous lines: 'I love you, girl; then there's—Ah, Gawd, I love you so!'

The South and New Party.

From *Under the Magnifying Glass*.

For the past nearly fifty years there is promise that the South is to have an opportunity to vote its actual beliefs; or perhaps it would be clearer to say that the various individuals who make up the South are to be permitted to make their ballots in line with their beliefs.

Four years ago, in this magazine, we pointed out the political conditions in the South and to point out the break in the solid South would be a splendid tonic. There is no doubt that the name Republican has kept some of its old-time associations so well maintained, but now there is to be offered the national Progressive party, which instead of being fettered by tradition is free to move in its formative period. This platform is not perfect, but that it will be broad enough for the narrowest is an assurance that may safely be offered.

If the South forever to be led by the blind man, Tradition? The pressing vitals of to-day are not to be met by discussion of the battle of Chickamauga. The South has to-day problems of the local, the national, the economic, and the negro—a problem which has not been left, by common consent, to the South for solving. The South is growing to give proportions to her agricultural base, industries, and commerce, and must look on the economic side as well as the sentimental.

The South needs two parties. No man will say that two parties are not possible to the party divided into bitter

Present System of Presidential Selection Leads to Abuses—Assemblage of Electoral College To-morrow Brings Up Question of What Original Intentions of Makers of Constitution Were.

all the electors were elected by direct vote of the people. Thus they are now chosen, and if they were permitted to assemble in convention and nominate the electors, they would be free to cast their formal votes should be cast the system would indeed be ideal.

In recent articles in *The Forum* (reprinted in this paper November 3 and December 1, 1912), the authors of the Constitution provided at first that the electors of all the States should assemble as a "Grand Electoral College," and select the President; but afterward, in view of difficulties of travel, arranged that they should meet in the States and certify their votes by mail. Thus the electors were rendered powerless to make a choice and were consequently compelled to accept and vote for candidates nominated by the States, and later by party conventions, but Congress ought to authorize the electors to assemble for conference and the nomination of candidates. Nominating conventions then would be free to choose, and it would be prohibited as forestalling the choice (i. e. impairing the freedom) of the electors who are constitutional officers of the government.

In electing the electors themselves, the most improved devices of democracy (such as nomination by primary election and caucus) would be free to be employed to procure men representative individually of their constituencies, and collectively of the public opinion of the States. The electors would be advised by a Presidential preference vote of the people, given without previous nomination, and properly tabulated for study and election. If so arranged, the Electoral College would be the best agency possible for electing the President. On election day, we, the entire people, would be asked to cast every vote of us, having written on his ballot (if he so desired) the name of his preference for President. By the use of the ballot, we could also elect, among ourselves a committee of respectable citizens, to sift and analyze our preference votes and select the best man.

It is to be hoped that the authors of the Constitution have thought in the former articles.

Direct Vote Unattainable.

Let it be conceded at once that the election of President by direct vote of the people (if any regard such method as desirable) is unattainable. By that method, the people would elect the electors, State lines would be obliterated,

and the smaller States would lose the advantage secured to them by our Federal system. The States would lose the privilege for every Senator and Representative. Also previous nominations would be more necessary than ever, and the voters would become more than ever the victim of the irresponsible nominations. The States will hesitate a long time before amending the Constitution in this line. But by very simple legislation and without change in the Constitution, we can adopt a merit system so it will operate as the fathers intended, furnishing a lawful nominating body and authoritative election agency. I believe careful reflection on the subject will show that the merit system will influence and control the election of Presidents as far as it can be controlled by them, when their grand committee on the Electoral College, exercising full power, shall act.

The effective operation of the constitutional method of election would cure the abuses alleged to result from the present method of re-election. The length of the President's term and his eligibility to successive terms were fully considered by the fathers. For weighty reasons, after debating proposals of six years and other terms, they agreed on four years and deemed it best to restrict the number of terms. Recall Bancroft's narrative respecting the mode of electing the President:

The constitutional convention at first reluctantly conferred that office on the National Legislature, voting in joint ballot. To escape from danger of cabal and corruption it next transferred full and final power of choice to an electoral college, which should be an exact counterpoise of the joint convention of the two Houses of Congress and should meet at the seat of government. The result of the confidence in the purity of the elector body thus established, the re-eligibility of the Executive was again affirmed."

Subject for Platforms.

Their thought was that if the President were elected by the Congress or by popular vote he ought to be limited to one term, which might be as long as seven years, but if chosen by a carefully selected body of electors, a shorter term would result from a shorter term with eligibility to re-election. A President who should prove a failure would not burden the country overlong, while the service of an able and vigorous President would be extended almost as a matter of course by a quiet re-election. From Washington we received the unfriendly law of two terms only, with the limitation on the President so admirable an institution per se that the most radical progressives and most timid conservatives may well unite in keeping it as it is. It is the responsibility of the Executive to make the office adaptable to the character of the man and the circumstances of the times, and a self-governing enlightened people may safely leave the guiding of the Executive tradition. The establishment of a sen-

[illegible]

the people should originate in the choice of the person to whom so important a trust is to be confided. This end will be answered by continuing the right of making it, not to an pre-established body, but to men chosen for the special purpose. And at the present juncture." And again: "The mode is favorable to integrity and corruption, that is, to which the unbiased voice of the people, would be most attended to, and that which is least likely to terminate in violence and usurpation, ought to be adopted."

Would Feel Responsibility.

If the function of the electors were made a reality they as average honorable Americans selected by their fellow citizens for a solemn trust, would feel their responsibility keenly. They would be protected and restrained by a thorough respect-practices law, their brief official existence would be spent and their duty performed in the very glare of publicity. It takes but a feeble optimism to predict that corruption among them would be practically non-existent. A sentiment of official integrity would grow around an elector, which would soon become traditional. It would be as unseemly to attempt to bias an elector as to attack the bench. Obviously it would be impossible for a President to communicate with the electors. They would assemble to make their choice within thirty days of their own election, as well as the incoming President, as well as the outgoing President, would be observed of all men. If not restrained by a high sense of propriety, they would be hindered by the difficulties of the situation, from exerting any influence over them, and they should be prohibited by law from receiving from the person elected any office or position, directly or indirectly. His road to re-election would be through the corralling of delegates to the convention, or giving and promising office or favoring corporations, but an able and honest administration would govern. Upon the elect body of men who would govern destiny none of the evil influences referred to above would have any power.

Therefore that before attempting to amend the Constitution either as to the President's term and eligibility, or as to the manner of electing him, we ought to try the results of making the electoral method effective. Give the Constitution a chance. To institute this reform a brief act should be passed at an early day prohibiting the nominating of candidates for President, or electors, by any national meeting, or otherwise, providing for a Presidential preference vote addressed to the electors, and requiring the assembling of the next Electoral College for the purpose of making the election. The exact details should be informed in advance. Afterward the details could be carefully studied and further provisions found necessary could be made in a supplemental act or in

-Copyright by Eusebio Mullien.

FREDERICK W. WHITRIDGE.

Yonkers, N. Y., Jan. 11.-"To protect my franchise I must operate my cars, blood shed or not." Such is the ultimatum of Frederick W. Whitridge, president of the Yonkers Electric Railway, which has been tied up by the striking motormen for more than a week, suspending surface traffic in Yonkers.

A black and white portrait of a man with a full beard and mustache, wearing a dark suit and a bow tie. The portrait is set within a decorative, ornate frame that has a curved top and a wide, scrolled base. The man is looking slightly to the right of the camera.

—Copyright by Eastern Mfg.

HELD FOR JEWEL THEFTS

Kitty Carr.

New York, Jan. 11.—Fashionable gown-wearers and women, many of them well known in social and financial circles, are calling at the Forty-seventh Street police station in an attempt to identify more than \$200,000 worth of stolen gowns and valises and articles of wearing apparel stolen from their homes by the six primers, one of them a woman, arrested in a Forty-second Street pawnshop. The primers were believed to be the entire band of robbers that have been operating in the fashionable homes on the west side of Upper Manhattan. Among those caught in the pawnshop were a woman and an criminal of many aliases and a long record, and his wife, Kitty Carr. These two are believed to be the brains of the operation. The bulk of the stolen "burglars' loot" being found in their apartment.